



INFANT TODDLER SERVICES SUMMIT FACT SHEET

THE INFANT TODDLER SERVICES SUMMIT is a statewide collaborative project whose goal is to assess current services for children birth to three and their families, and to develop a comprehensive plan for the future of these services. This project operates out of the *Executive Office of Health and Human Services* (EOHHS) and receives funding from the *Administration for Children and Families* of the *United States Department of Health and Human Services*. Members include EOHHS, the Departments of Public Health and Education, the Office of Child Care Services, Head Start, as well as numerous community providers, private foundations, and public and private advocacy organizations.

Background: The Infant Toddler Services Summit was convened in Spring 1997. Responding to the changing needs of families and emerging research findings on the critical development of children from ages birth to three, the Summit members seek to design a systemic approach that strengthens statewide and community services. Prior to the Infant Toddler Services Summit no statewide group has addressed the collaboration of all services for children birth to three and their families.

It is imperative that we, as policymakers and providers, ensure a high quality and comprehensive system of services to best support children ages birth to three and their families in the Commonwealth.

Fact: The years between birth and three are critical in a child's cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development. There are approximately 250,000 children between birth and three living in Massachusetts.

Fact: One in five Massachusetts children, six years and younger, lives in poverty.

Fact: One in three victims of physical abuse is a baby less than a year old.

Fact: At least ten infants wait for each licensed child care space that becomes available in Massachusetts.

Goals of the Infant Toddler Service Summit:

- (1) To identify gaps and duplications in services and supports for families with children birth to three.
- (2) To assess and promote a consistent level of high-quality supports, services, and programs from a family-centered perspective.
- (3) To develop a statewide strategic plan, and establish supports for a comprehensive service system that builds upon the appropriate linkages.

For more information, or a complete listing of members, please call:
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